

Road Works.

18. The West Coast Road work estimated to cost Rs. 758.76 lakhs and running for a length of 152 miles along the West Coast is under rapid progress and is expected to be completed before the end of Third Plan. Several other roads and bridge works have been taken in the under-developed areas in the northern and western parts of the State. At present, about 107 bridges are under progress and out of this 30 major bridges are expected to be completed and thrown open for traffic. The work connected with important mineral ore carrying roads to connect mining areas with the western part of Mangalore, Karwar and Honnavar is also progressing satisfactorily.

Broad Gauge Railway Facilities and Ore Transport.

19. The State Government have been urging provision of Broad Gauge Railway facilities in various sections inclusive of the line between Guntakal and Hubli. Sanction of this facility only for a part of Guntakal—Hubli line from Guntakal to Hospet has caused serious inconvenience to Mine owners of the region carrying on export of Iron and other Ores through West Coast Ports. The State Government has pointed out the unfortunate effects following from this decision to take up the work in a part and have urged the Centre to arrange to take up the entire Guntakal—Hubli line for provision of Broad gauge facilities, in addition to lines in other areas. It is hoped that the Railway Board will appreciate the difficulties and take up the entire line soon.

Public Health.

20. Government have been endeavouring their best to provide health facilities to the people with a view to see that the common man is able to lead a healthy life both in the village and the town. In the matter of control of communicable diseases, considerable head-way has been made. The National Malaria Eradication Programme and the National Smallpox Eradication Programme have been progressing satisfactorily. One hundred and eighty-three Primary Health Centres have been sanctioned in the Community Development Blocks and a Bureau of Nutrition is proposed to be set up in order to correct the nutritional deficiencies in the vulnerable sections of the population. The Medical Schools situated at Bijapur and Shimoga have been abolished and all the 250 students of these schools admitted to the Medical Colleges. Implementation of the scheme for increasing the beds in the Hospitals has continued and special Pediatric Units have been started in teaching hospitals with the assistance of UNICEF.